

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for determining a business value of a business case to an organization, comprising:

receiving input of cost information to implement said

5 business case;

second receiving input of financial benefit information estimating a financial benefit afforded by adoption of said business case;

third receiving input of risk information estimating a risk
10 associated with adoption of said business plan;

fourth receiving input of strategic impact of adoption of said business plan on one or more strategic goals of said organization;

fifth receiving input of intangible impact of adoption of
15 said business plan;

computing said business value in conformity with said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information;

gathering data for estimating a variation of actual values
20 corresponding to one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information and strategic impact information; and

updating said computed business value in conformity with said gathered data.

2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said gathering gathers confidence parameters reflecting confidence in one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information, in response to user input from users providing objective evaluation of said actual values against said input cost information, financial benefit information, risk information and strategic impact information.

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3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said gathering gathers volatility parameters reflecting a volatility of one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information, and further comprising performing a statistical analysis on said computed business value in conformity with said volatility parameters, whereby said business value is adjusted for evaluation against other business cases.

20 4. The method of Claim 3, wherein said statistical analysis comprises a real options analysis.

5. The method of Claim 1, wherein said gathering gathers interdependency parameters reflecting a variation of one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information,
5 as a function of adoption of one or more other business cases.

6. The method of Claim 1, wherein said gathering gathers historical data reflecting a variation of one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk
10 information, intangible impact and strategic impact information after adoption of said business cases, whereby said business case is evaluated on an on-going basis.

7. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
15 repeating said steps of first receiving, second receiving, third receiving, fourth receiving, fifth receiving and computing for each of a plurality of business cases;
receiving sixth input of a fixed acceptable risk value; and
selecting an efficient portfolio maximizing a total of said
20 financial benefit information from a total of said cost information.

8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said gathering comprises:

providing a series of questions relating to one or more of
said cost information, financial benefit information, risk
information, intangible impact and strategic impact information,
5 wherein each of said questions has an answer selectable from a
list of answers, and wherein each of said answers has an
associated weighted value for adjusting an associated one of
said cost information, financial benefit information, risk
information, intangible impact and strategic impact information;

10 and

collecting said weighted values selected in response to
said series of questions, whereby said variation is estimated in
conformity with said collected weighted values.

9. The method of Claim 8, further comprising:

issuing said series of questions to a plurality of system users, and wherein said collecting collects said weighted values from responses of said plurality of system users; and

5 averaging said weighted values for each of a plurality of sets of questions, each set of questions relating to one of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information, and wherein said updating updates each of said cost information,
10 financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information in conformity with results of said averaging.

10. The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

15 repeating said steps of first receiving, second receiving, third receiving, fourth receiving, fifth receiving and computing for each of a plurality of business cases; and

generating a graphical depiction of placement of said computed business values versus risk, whereby a system user can
20 view the relative merits of said plurality of business cases.

11. A computer system comprising a processor for executing program instructions and a memory coupled to said processor for storing program instructions and data, wherein said program instructions comprise program instructions for:

5 receiving input of cost information to implement said business case;

 second receiving input of financial benefit information estimating a financial benefit afforded by adoption of said business case;

10 third receiving input of risk information estimating a risk associated with adoption of said business plan;

 fourth receiving input of strategic impact of adoption of said business plan on one or more strategic goals of said organization;

15 fifth receiving input of intangible impact of adoption of said business plan;

 computing said business value in conformity with said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information and strategic impact information;

20 gathering data for estimating a variation of actual values corresponding to one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information and strategic impact information; and

updating said computed business value in conformity with
said gathered data.

12. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said program
5 instructions for gathering gather confidence parameters
reflecting confidence in one or more of said cost information,
financial benefit information, risk information, intangible
impact and strategic impact information, in response to user
input from users providing objective evaluation of said actual
10 values against said input cost information, financial benefit
information, risk information and strategic impact information.

13. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said program
instructions for gathering gather volatility parameters
15 reflecting a volatility of one or more of said cost information,
financial benefit information, risk information, intangible
impact and strategic impact information, and further comprising
program instructions for performing a statistical analysis on
said computed business value in conformity with said volatility
20 parameters, whereby said business value is adjusted for
evaluation against other business cases.

14. The computer system of Claim 13, wherein said program instructions for performing said statistical analysis comprise program instructions for performing a real options analysis.

5 15. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said program instructions for gathering gather interdependency parameters reflecting a variation of one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information, as a function of
10 adoption of one or more other business cases.

16. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said program instructions for gathering gather historical data reflecting a variation of one or more of said cost information, financial
15 benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information after adoption of said business cases, whereby said business case is evaluated on an on-going basis.

17. The computer system of Claim 11, further comprising program instructions for:

repeatedly executing said program instructions for first receiving, second receiving, third receiving, fourth receiving,
5 fifth receiving and computing for each of a plurality of business cases;

receiving sixth input of a fixed acceptable risk value; and

selecting an efficient portfolio maximizing a total of said financial benefit information from a total of said cost
10 information.

18. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said program instructions for gathering comprise program instructions for:

providing a series of questions relating to one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information, wherein each of said questions has an answer selectable from a list of answers, and wherein each of said answers has an associated weighted value for adjusting an associated one of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information; and

collecting said weighted values selected in response to said series of questions, whereby said program instructions for updating estimate said variation in conformity with said collected weighted values.

19. The computer system of Claim 18, wherein said program instructions further comprise program instructions for:

issuing said series of questions to a plurality of system users, and wherein said program instructions for collecting

5 collect said weighted values from responses of said plurality of system users; and

averaging said weighted values for each of a plurality of sets of questions, each set of questions relating to one of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk

10 information, intangible impact and strategic impact information, and wherein said program instructions for updating update each of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information in conformity with results of said averaging.

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20. The computer system of Claim 11, wherein said program instructions further comprise program instructions for:

repeatedly executing said program instructions for first receiving, second receiving, third receiving, fourth receiving,
5 fifth receiving and computing for each of a plurality of business cases; and

generating a graphical depiction of placement of said computed business values versus risk, whereby a system user can view the relative merits of said plurality of business cases.

21. A computer program product comprising a signal-bearing media encoding program instructions for execution within a general-purpose computer system, wherein said program instructions comprise program instructions for:

5 receiving input of cost information to implement said business case;

 second receiving input of financial benefit information estimating a financial benefit afforded by adoption of said business case;

10 third receiving input of risk information estimating a risk associated with adoption of said business plan;

 fourth receiving input of strategic impact of adoption of said business plan on one or more strategic goals of said organization;

15 fifth receiving input of intangible impact of adoption of said business plan;

 computing said business value in conformity with said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information and strategic impact information;

20 gathering data for estimating a variation of actual values corresponding to one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information and strategic impact information; and

updating said computed business value in conformity with
said gathered data.

22. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein said
5 program instructions for gathering gather confidence parameters
reflecting confidence in one or more of said cost information,
financial benefit information, risk information, intangible
impact and strategic impact information, in response to user
input from users providing objective evaluation of said actual
10 values against said input cost information, financial benefit
information, risk information and strategic impact information.

23. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein said
program instructions for gathering gather volatility parameters
15 reflecting a volatility of one or more of said cost information,
financial benefit information, risk information, intangible
impact and strategic impact information, and further comprising
program instructions for performing a statistical analysis on
said computed business value in conformity with said volatility
20 parameters, whereby said business value is adjusted for
evaluation against other business cases.

24. The computer program product system of Claim 23, wherein said program instructions for performing said statistical analysis comprise program instructions for performing a real options analysis.

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25. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein said program instructions for gathering gather interdependency parameters reflecting a variation of one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information,
10 intangible impact and strategic impact information, as a function of adoption of one or more other business cases.

26. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein said program instructions for gathering gather historical data
15 reflecting a variation of one or more of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information after adoption of said business cases, whereby said business case is evaluated on an on-going basis.

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27. The computer program product of Claim 21, further comprising program instructions for:

repeatedly executing said program instructions for first receiving, second receiving, third receiving, fourth receiving,
5 fifth receiving and computing for each of a plurality of business cases;

receiving sixth input of a fixed acceptable risk value; and

selecting an efficient portfolio maximizing a total of said financial benefit information from a total of said cost

10 information.

28. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein said program instructions for gathering comprise program instructions for:

providing a series of questions relating to one or more of
5 said cost information, financial benefit information, risk
information, intangible impact and strategic impact information,
wherein each of said questions has an answer selectable from a
list of answers, and wherein each of said answers has an
associated weighted value for adjusting an associated one of
10 said cost information, financial benefit information, risk
information, intangible impact and strategic impact information;
and

collecting said weighted values selected in response to
said series of questions, whereby said program instructions for
15 updating estimate said variation in conformity with said
collected weighted values.

29. The computer program product of Claim 28, wherein said program instructions further comprise program instructions for:

issuing said series of questions to a plurality of system users, and wherein said program instructions for collecting

5 collect said weighted values from responses of said plurality of system users; and

averaging said weighted values for each of a plurality of sets of questions, each set of questions relating to one of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk

10 information, intangible impact and strategic impact information, and wherein said program instructions for updating update each of said cost information, financial benefit information, risk information, intangible impact and strategic impact information in conformity with results of said averaging.

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30. The computer program product of Claim 21, wherein said program instructions further comprise program instructions for:

repeatedly executing said program instructions for first receiving, second receiving, third receiving, fourth receiving,

20 fifth receiving and computing for each of a plurality of business cases; and

generating a graphical depiction of placement of said computed business values versus risk, whereby a system user can view the relative merits of said plurality of business cases.